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A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The Government will consider the suggestion.

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—"Will the hon. the Law Member favourably consider the claims of the co-operative societies ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"I have stated already that the Government will consider the suggestion. Favourably or unfavourably I am not in a position to say now."

Compassionate grants to the family of Mr. Ponnayya.

* 1293 *Q.*—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state with reference to the answers to question No. 623 answered on 26th November 1928—

(*a*) what the service of Ranger Ponnayya was on the date on which the death took place ;

(*b*) whether the Government have considered the peculiar plight of the bereaved family ; and

(*c*) whether they have made or propose to make a compassionate grant to the wife of the deceased ?

A.—(*a*) The service of Ranger B. Ponnayya on the date of his death was 18 years and 18 days.

(*b*) & (*c*) No application for compassionate gratuity has been received.

Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan :—"If any application for compassionate grant is received, will he consider it favourably ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"I cannot say."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"Favourably or not, Sir, will he at least consider it ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Oh, yes ; certainly."

Alleged refusal of food supplies to the Forest officers of Sirugudi village.

* 1294 *Q.*—Mr. K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that the inhabitants of about thirty or forty villages of Melur taluk, Madura district, organized themselves into a sangam under the leadership of one Mr. Ranganatha Pillai, residing at Urilipatti, Melur taluk, Madura district, and refused food supplies to the Forest officers of Sirugudi village in the above taluk as they were prevented from hunting in the reserve forests near that village ;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware that upon this the District Forest authorities reported the suffering of these officers to the District Collector, Madura, and requested him to investigate into the affair ;

(*c*) what action was taken by the Collector thereon and how the leader of the above sangam, Mr. Ranganatha Pillai, was dealt with ; and

(*d*) if the Government have no information, whether they will call for a report and place it on the table of the House ?

A.—(*a*) to (*d*) The Government have no information but have called for it.

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Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" May I request the hon. the Law Member to place the information on the table of the House as soon as it is received ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I will consider it."

Levy of poundage in respect of strayed cattle in Nallajarla forest.

* 1295 Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in Nallajarla forest, West Godavari district, there are scattered reserve plots in the midst of grazing areas ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the poundage collected in respect of cattle straying into the reserve plots is Re. 1 per head of cattle ;

(*c*) for how many years past and for what reasons the poundage imposed in the case of Nallajarla forest is Re. 1 per head of cattle ;

(*d*) whether the usual rate of poundage is 4 annas per head ; and

(*e*) whether Government will consider the desirability of reducing the poundage rate in Nallajarla forest to 4 annas ?

A.—(*a*) The Nallajarla reserve supplies fuel and a portion thereof is also fit for grazing. It is true that portions here and there closed to grazing are in the midst of grazing areas. This depends upon the position of the respective coupes and cannot be altered.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No information is available regarding the period during which this poundage has been in force. The high rate is intended to discourage trespass as it is extremely injurious to young growth in the plantations on which depends the fuel supply to the growing municipal town of Ellore.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" As regards the answer to clause (*c*), may I know on what material the Government based this answer, namely, that growing fuel in the Nallajarla forest is necessary for fuel supply to the growing municipal town of Ellore? Have they got information as to how much fuel is taken to Ellore and whether any fuel is taken at all ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The answer given here is based on the report of the Chief Conservator."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" Are the Government aware that the Nallajarla forest is far away and that there are forests nearer Ellore to supply fuel ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I want notice."

Jails

Introduction of hand-spinning in jails.

* 1296 Q.—Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state, with reference to the answer to question No. 772 answered on 28th November 1928, whether the Government have considered the desirability of introducing cotton hand-spinning in the jails by the persons confined therein, and if so, with what result ?